

wherein said oxide superconductors are divided into a plurality of filaments.

3. (Amended) The oxide superconducting wire as defined in claim 1, wherein said oxide superconductors are configured to spirally extend around the central axis of said oxide superconducting wire.

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4. (Amended) The oxide superconducting wire as defined in claim 1, wherein said ceramic layer contains an oxide including at least one kind selected from the group consisting of bismuth, lead, strontium, calcium, barium, titanium, niobium, molybdenum, tantalum, tungsten, vanadium, zirconium, copper and silver.

5. (Amended) The oxide superconducting wire provided in one of the claims 1 wherein said oxide superconductors are bismuth-based superconductors.

6. (Amended) The oxide superconducting wire as defined in claim 4, wherein said ceramic layer contains an oxide including an alkali earth metal and copper.

7. (Amended) The oxide superconducting wire as defined in claim 1, wherein said metal sheath include at least one kind selected from the group consisting of silver, copper, manganese, magnesium, antimony, iron, chromium, and nickel.

8. (Amended) An oxide superconducting wire comprising:  
a plurality of filaments, each filament formed of an oxide superconductor;  
a ceramic layer formed by extrusion, said ceramic layer enclosing said oxide superconductors and becoming non-conducting at an operating temperature of said oxide superconductors and;  
a metal sheath encasing said ceramic layer.

9. (Amended) The oxide superconducting wire as defined in claim 8, wherein a silver-based sheath is interposed between each of said oxide superconductors and said ceramic layer.

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10. (Amended) The oxide superconducting wire as defined in claim 8, wherein said ceramic layer enclosing and being in contact with each of said oxide superconductors.

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